

Clean Water Needs Survey 2000

NEWS NOTES

Volume II - Issue 1, February 2000

WELCOME

Welcome to the first issue of News Notes for the Year 2000 Clean Water Needs Survey (CWNS 2000). The aim of the CWNS News Notes is to keep all of the State and Regional CWNS Coordinators informed of the status, issues, schedules, and general news items for CWNS 2000. New Notes will be published once each month during CWNS 2000, and will also be posted on the CWNS web site (www.epa.gov/owm/uc.htm).

This month's issue includes:

- the major goals for CWNS 2000;
- the planned schedule for CWNS 2000;
- information about the CWNS 2000 Kick-off Meeting in San Diego, CA;
- a reminder about the software requirements for the CWNS;
- subcommittee reports; and
- an update on the status of the CWNS database.

Future issues will feature discussions on new features of the CWNS software, reporting capabilities, and other newsworthy items. Please feel free to submit your ideas, concerns or comments for future New Notes items to Jim Shuster or Sandi Perrin at EPA HQ.

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MAJOR GOALS OF CWNS 2000

The major goals of CWNS 2000 are:

- Update documentation data for specific facilities. The CWNS Quality Improvements Subcommittee is in the process of determining the exact facilities that need to be "redocumented";
- Continue to include Storm Water, Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO), and other wet weather needs, as well as Nonpoint Source (NPS) needs, into the CWNS database;
- Add geographic data (such as point of record latitude and longitude data) to allow geo-referencing and to enable data to be viewed on a watershed basis;
- Add data for newly-added Category VIII (Point Source Mining) and Category IX (Point Source Combined Animal Feeding Operations) needs.

CWNS 2000 KICK-OFF MEETING



The CWNS 2000 Kick-off Meeting is scheduled for March 26-31 at the Holiday Inn on the Bay in San Diego, California. You should have already received your invitation to this meeting, along with a copy of the meeting agenda and some other details. The meeting agenda includes break-out sessions dealing with CWNS business issues and training with the modernized CWNS database application. The break-out sessions will include discussions of:

- Needs documentation, including small community needs;
- Wet weather issues and needs, including Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs), Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and Storm Water;
- Nonpoint Source (NPS) issues and needs; and
- Redocumentation of needs and other CWNS data quality improvements.

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REGIONAL CWNS COORDINATORS

The CWNS Database Application training will cover items such as how to:

- log-on to the database;
- access existing facilities and create new facilities;
- add, edit and update CWNS data;
- submit data for review by EPA HQ; and
- generate “canned” reports.

A full and active week has been planned, and this meeting will be the primary means for database training and information pertaining to CWNS 2000. We encourage all to attend this important meeting.

A list of Regional CWNS Coordinators is provided below. The Regional CWNS Coordinators are available to support State users in CWNS logistics, interpreting CWNS business issues, and determining how appropriate data should be entered into the CWNS. Your Regional CWNS Coordinators will also help to review specific types of documentation, such as “alternative documentation” for small community needs, and Nonpoint Source documentation. Please contact your Regional CWNS Coordinator to discuss more of the ways that he or she can help you to successfully complete CWNS 2000.



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CWNS 2000 Schedule

March 3 - CWNS software installation CDs sent out to States and EPA Regions

March 26-31, 2000 - Kick-off Meeting, San Diego, CA

TBD - Completion of Data Submission

TBD - End of Survey Meeting

TBD - Complete CWNS 2000 Report to Congress

WHAT'S NEW FOR CWNS 2000?

The major change for CWNS 2000 is the modernized CWNS database. The new CWNS database has been updated to work in a Windows 95 environment with an easy-to-understand user interface. The data labels and the on-line help have also been updated in an attempt to improve the “user friendliness” of the application. To the user, this means that the days of interpreting complicated codes and receiving confusing error messages should be over.

- The new CWNS database application provides automated checks that help improve data quality. These include some requirements for data to be entered into every CWNS facility before it can be coded as "State Happy" and be submitted into the CWNS database. Fields for these mandatory data elements are color-coded and automatic messages will alert users to missing data or any data errors.
- CWNS 2000 will also require geographical information for facilities, such as a latitude/longitude point of record (POR) and will allow watershed level data to be input into the CWNS database.
- There are also two new needs categories that will be available for the CWNS 2000. These are Category VIII (Point Source Mining), and Category IX (Point Source Combined Animal Feeding Operations) needs.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS



For CWNS 2000, EPA is supporting the Direct Connect platform of the CWNS database application. EPA will provide all of the necessary software for the States and Regions to install this application.

Two other platforms remain under development (Stand-alone and LAN). EPA HQ is planning to implement these platforms for future surveys. If you have any questions regarding software requirements, software compatibility, or software installation, please contact your Regional CWNS Coordinator, or call Lubna Naseem (Parsons ES) at the CWNS 2000 Database Help-line for assistance (703-934-2392).

SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKGROUP REPORTS

- *Small Communities.* The chairperson of the Small Communities subcommittee is Kelly Beard-Tittone from EPA Region 7. The Small Communities subcommittee is responsible for defining criteria for, and supporting the inclusion of, small community needs into CWNS 2000. This subcommittee will be preparing the Small Community section of the CWNS 2000 User Manual, which will include the requirements for incorporating small community needs into the survey. Documentation requirements for small community needs are not as rigid as those for larger communities, and can include "alternative documentation" signed by appropriate "State Engineer or other qualified State Project Staff." However, the question of who can sign alternative documentation is still being pursued. CWNS Regional Coordinators will check a percentage of the small community alternative documentation to ensure their accuracy and consistency. Kelly can be reached at 913-551-7217 or by e-mail at beard-tittone.kelly@epa.gov.
- *Nonpoint Source.* The chairperson of the NPS subcommittee is Rick Mollahan from Illinois. The NPS subcommittee is responsible for defining criteria for, and supporting the inclusion of, NPS needs into CWNS 2000. This subcommittee will be preparing the NPS section of the CWNS 2000 User Manual, which will include the requirements for incorporating NPS needs into the survey. One of the current goals of the subcommittee is to be creative in identifying documentation that meets the "six criteria" for supporting NPS needs. In addition, a draft definition for the Point of Record (POR) for NPS facilities is being circulated within the subcommittee for comment. Rick can be reached at 217-782-2027, or by e-mail at epa1184@epa.state.il.us.
- *Wet Weather.* The chairperson of the Wet Weather subcommittee is Bill Tansey from EPA Region 5. The Wet Weather subcommittee is responsible for defining criteria for, and supporting the inclusion of, CSO, SSO, and SW needs into CWNS 2000. This subcommittee will be preparing the wet weather guidance in the CWNS 2000 User Manual. One of the committee's recommendations is to use long-term CSO Control Plans to document CSO costs. The subcommittee has also suggested that modeling should be investigated as a method for estimating needs for sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Bill can be reached at 312-886-0125 or by e-mail at tansey.william@epa.gov.
- *Quality Improvements.* The chairperson of the Quality Improvements subcommittee is Gary Powell from the State of Florida. The Quality Improvements subcommittee has been involved in updating the requirements for redocumentation of needs, as well as developing a definition of the term "design year." Gary can be reached at 850-488-8163 or by e-mail at gary.powell@dep.state.fl.us.
- *User Manual and Kick-off Meeting.* The chairperson of the User Manual and Kick-off Meeting subcommittee is Doug Garrett from the State of Missouri. The User Manual and Kick-off Meeting subcommittee has been identifying areas of the CWNS 2000 User Manual that require updating, and has begun updating these sections. Doug can be reached at 573-751-1192, or by e-mail at nrrgard@mail.dnr.state.mo.us.

DATA CONVERSION

In order to transfer the data from the old CWNS RUQuS database to the new database, data from the 1996 CWNS were converted into the new database format. As of January 15, 2000, data for each state and territory had been converted into the new format. An attempt was made to convert all data in the RUQuS database into the

new format; however, some data elements were not compatible with the new system, and therefore, they were not converted. In addition, because of the QA/QC checks in the new database, some additional data may not have been converted. In order to help to identify data that did not convert, the states will receive a data reconciliation report that will describe any errors that were detected during data conversion. Be sure to check the data reconciliation report to ensure that all of your data are accurate. These data reconciliation reports will be sent out with the database installation disks.

REDOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to ensure that all data and needs estimates in the CWNS remain as accurate as possible, certain needs must have their documentation data updated (they must be "redocumented") for CWNS 2000. Under the redocumentation requirements, more recent documentation data must be provided to show that the need still exists and to provide an updated cost estimate to fix the problem. All needs that cannot be redocumented under these requirements will either have to be moved to the Separate State Estimate section of the database, or will have to be deleted from the database. Criteria for this redocumentation are being developed and agreed upon by the CWNS workgroup and will be distributed as they are finalized.

NEW CWNS CONTRACTOR

Following a recent contract award, contractor support for the CWNS will be transitioned from Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. to Tetra Tech, Inc. during the course of this year. Please contact EPA HQ for more information on this transition.

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